



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ABIDE WITH US, LORD JESUS CHRIST FROM 'THE SCHÜBLER CHORALES'
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

J. S. BACH

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

MORNING HAS BROKEN
NANCY HODGES, PIANO

ARR. NEIL MAXEY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather before our God to offer our praise.

For all who seek the Lord shall praise God's name!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord

The afflicted shall be consoled and the hungry shall be satisfied

All the families of the earth shall worship our God.

And the peoples shall proclaim the Lord's deliverance forever!

Let us pray...

O God, whose love for us has been made known in Christ Jesus, help us to apprehend anew the depths of your love so that in knowing and loving you we may in turn learn to know and love one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN # 239

GOOD CHRISTIANS ALL, REJOICE AND SING!

"GELOBT SEI GOTT"

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, we acknowledge that we do not bear the fruits of your love as we should. Too often, our lives are like dead branches, worthy only to be pruned and discarded. But since you will not let us go, so we ask that you forgive us. Bring us back to health and wholeness by the power of your love and mercy. Make us true vehicles of Christ's love, bringing good and fruitful works to bear upon the world and its people. Let us abide in Him who is the vine, that we may more fully show ourselves to be the disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HUMMED RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free!
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

I JOHN 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister^[d] whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

ANTHEM

CHRIST IS THE VINE, WE ARE THE BRANCHES
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AND BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE
(Live streamed from worship on April 29, 2018)

ROBERT A. HOBBY

*Christ is the vine, we are the branches; growing in unity with each new strand.
Christ is the vine, we are the branches; nurtured and pruned by the vinegrower's hand.*

The vine which God is tending is bursting with new life;
Its reach is never-ending, while pruned with sharpest knife.
It stretched to the sunshine with yearning born of need,
and bears good fruit for new wind, love born from tiny seed.

The vine was born in darkness, and from the earth it grew;
A rose, pure in the darkness, caressed by Spirit dew.
As Mosses once saw branches with holy brightness glow,
we see our spreading branches through all creation grow.

And we who twine together are rooted in the vine.
With love in Christ we gather to share the bread and wine.
In Christ we are abiding. We grow within God's care,
and spread this joyful tidings to people everywhere.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

JOHN 15:1-8

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

"THE ABIDING PRESENCE"

REV. DR. WALT PETERS

* HYMN #836

ABIDE WITH ME

"EVENTIDE"

1 A - bid e with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid e!
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bid e with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bid e with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bid e with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bid e with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bid e with me.

MORNING OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

(The offering is to be placed in the dish at the rear of the sanctuary. We are not passing the plate at this time)

* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give our thanks and praise, O God, for at your word the earth was made. By your hand we were formed and set in this world to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us; your love remained steadfast. When our spiritual ancestors were in Egypt, you broke the bonds of slavery and led them through the sea to freedom. You made covenant with them to be their God, and you brought them to a land flowing with milk and honey. You spoke of love and justice by the prophets, and then you sent the Word made flesh so that we might see your glory in its fullness. He died that we might live and is now risen to raise us to new life. Therefore we praise you, and we join our voices with those of the saints in every time and place, declaring to the glory of your mighty name”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart and was met with violence and death. But by your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb. At his command the gates of hell were opened. The One who was dead now lives. The One whose name is above all names, before whom every knee shall bow, is raised to rule over all creation. In ascending on high, he promised to be with us always. And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and celebrate the sacrament that Jesus himself instituted. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service. Thus we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup, that in breaking this bread and sharing this cup, our eyes may be opened to recognize Christ's presence in our lives and in our world. Fed by his gracious hand, make us one with all who share this feast. Unite us in ministry and service throughout the world, and give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection when, with all the redeemed, we will feast with you in your kingdom.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor, all praise and adoration, are yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

* HYMN #539

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

"WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY"

Leader

1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
 2 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
 3 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

Refrain Fsus2 C F G C

Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.

to Stanzas

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* **BENEDICTION**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

(All members are encouraged to stay; visitors are welcome.)

POSTLUDE

TOCCATA
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

JOHN WEAVER

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Walt Peters
Liturgist.....David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musicians.....Nancy Hodges, Piano; Brenda Luger, Flute and The Sanctuary Choir (previously recorded)
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Paul and Barbara Aber

Worship & Music Notes

Today we welcome back our guest preacher, the Rev. Walt Peters, to the pulpit. He served congregations in Macon, GA; Tampa, FL, and Augusta, GA, before coming to First Presbyterian in Westminster in 1999, being honorably retired by Baltimore Presbytery in October of 2013. In retirement he is an active participant in the Wild Wild West Ministry Group. He and his wife Rebecca reside in Hagerstown. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Today's postlude is the best-known composition of American organist and composer John Weaver (1937-2021.) Weaver served for 35 years as Organist and Director of Music at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, in addition to chairing the organ departments at both the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School.

A Congregational Meeting has been called by session **for TODAY following worship**. The purpose of the meeting is to fill current vacancies on session and to consider revisions in the church bylaws. According to Presbytery, all those who vote at a Congregational Meeting must be able both to see and to hear all that transpires. To fulfill this requirement, only those who are physically present in the sanctuary on May 2, 2021, can vote

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! Whether you are very young, in your teens, adult, older adult; black, white, brown, or any other color; straight, gay, transgendered; very well off financially or not so much; feel great today or your bones are hurting again; have little cares or are weighed down with a lot of concern; speak English fluently or speak little English; raised in a church, not raised in a church; haven't been in church since that special person was baptized, or just exploring spirituality; whoever you are, YOU are welcome here!

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland. Childcare is provided in the nursery. An usher will be glad to direct you there.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: While we do provide a nursery for young children, we also welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Kirke and Theresa Davis, by Gail Plitnik. **There are currently flower openings on May 16th, May 23rd, June 6th and June 13th.** Please contact **Michael Levitas** or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

OFFERING PLATES: Offering plates are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please deposit your gifts, offerings, and tithes into the plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of April 25, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$57,861.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$63,954.00
Over/(Under)	\$(6,093.00)

RULING ELDER NOMINEES

MIKAYLA DODGE (CLASS OF 2023)

Mikayla Dodge has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for 5 years and has been actively involved in singing with the FPC chorus for 10 years. Mikayla is an active community member. She enjoys making music with the Cumberland Choral Society, performing in shows at both the Embassy and Cumberland Theatre, and volunteering to assist with local community events. Mikayla loves to spend time with her husband Zach and daughter Aria.

KATIE ROSS (CLASS OF 2023)

Katie Ross grew up in a Christian home in Southern California. She attended Cal Western University, a Methodist College in San Diego, California. Her major was French and Spanish. While in the University, she participated in a sacred dance group which deepened her faith and brought to life the biblical stories. She earned a teaching certificate which enabled her to teach foreign languages in places such as San Diego; on an Air Force base in Japan; Montgomery County, Maryland; and finally in Allegany County. At one time or another, she has taught students from elementary school all the way through college. Almost 30 years ago Katie discovered storytelling. Since then, she shares stories with audiences professionally and her husband, Otto, joins her providing music on the banjo, guitar, or accordion.

Katie moved to Allegany County in 1980. After attending many churches, Katie and her family decided on First Presbyterian. They especially liked what First Pres had to offer to her two kids, Tim and Holly. Since then, Katie has filled the pulpit several times telling Biblical stories and personal ones. She has participated at times sharing tales with the children. She has taught adult Sunday school classes and promoted the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). She served as co-chair of the Mission Committee while on Session. From time to time, she has ushered and currently she enjoys being liturgist. Several years ago, she worked with Caroline Kelly organizing a women's retreat which featured Katie's dramatic portrayal of three women of the Bible.

Katie lives with her husband, Otto, in nearby West Virginia. They are both retired. Together they have three daughters, 2 sons, and 6 grandchildren.